(b) if so, the details of the policy and the goals set out thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capitation fee in professional colleges

353. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of charging of huge capitation fee by several professional colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prohibit capitation fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 2 cases of charging of capitation fee by People Education Society, Bangalore (PESIT) and Babaria Institute of Technology, Vadodara were reported to them. The two institutes accepted that they had received voluntary contributions/donations and had since returned the amounts to the complainants.

(c) AICTE has informed that the above two institutions would not be granted any increase in intake or additional courses for two academic years. AICTE has also intimated that as and when complaints regarding charging of capitation fee are received, an Enquiry Committee conducts enquiry into the complaint and appropriate action is taken based on the report of the Enquiry Committee.

A legislative proposal, to provide the legal mandate to prohibit unfair practices including charging of capitation fee in any form in technical and medical educational institutions & universities, is under consideration and inter-ministrial consultations have been taken up for firming up the legislative proposal.

Popularity of Sanskrit and Urdu

354. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sanskrit and Urdu is gaining popularity among students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made for the research and development of Sanskrit and Urdu in each State and to each university in the country especially in minority populated areas in Hyderabad and other Telangana areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While no information is centrally maintained in regard to enrollment in language courses in higher education, the number of students opting for Sanskrit and Urdu at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) shows an upward trend.

(c) No State-wise allocations are made for research in Sanskrit and Urdu. In the XIth Plan, University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated Rs. 966.5 lakhs and Rs. 1162.5 lakhs respectively to Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi, for the promotion of Sanskrit and Rs. 13,022 lakhs to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad for the promotion of Urdu. Additionally, Rs.400 lakhs each was allocated through UGC to Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University and Jamia Milia Islamia University for establishing Academies of Professional Development of Urdu language. The Central Government has also allocated Rs. 17500 lakhs to Rastriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), New Delhi for the XI Plan period for promotion of Sanskrit. RSkS also extends financial assistance for Sanskrit teachers for secondary/higher secondary schools belonging to State Governments on the basis of their request as per decisions taken by Grants in Aid Committee.

Autonomy to colleges

355. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the colleges affiliated to State universities are reluctant to get autonomy and that both the teachers and managements are opposed to autonomy; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the number of autonomous colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There are reports of apprehensions in the minds of teachers, managements and the State Governments about the fall-out of conferment of autonomous status on the colleges. These apprehensions are mainly with regard to service conditions and job security of teachers and other employees of the autonomous colleges and the relation of the colleges with the university and the State Government. With a view to accelerate the growth of autonomous colleges in the country, the University Grants Commission has revised the Guidelines on "Autonomous Colleges". The Colleges which are desirous of autonomous status can directly apply to UGC, instead of through the parent universities. Further, the Commission has taken a decision to scrap the existing procedure of Screening Committee to screen the proposals received. Instead, Expert Committees are constituted on the receipt of the proposals from the colleges and based upon the Expert Committee's recommendations, the colleges are given autonomous status.